

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

93-253



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

06 JAN 1994

RECEIVED

JUN 21 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Honorable Michael D. Crapo
United States House of Representatives
437 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crapo:

This in reply to your letter of December 13, 1993, concerning the impact of the competitive bidding provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (Budget Act) on rural telephone companies. Your letter was referred to me because the Office of Plans and Policy is responsible for implementing the competitive bidding provisions of the Budget Act for the Commission.

On October 12, 1993, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making, (Auction Notice), to implement the provisions of the Budget Act concerning competitive bidding. According to the Budget Act, the Commission must ensure the economic opportunity of small businesses, businesses owned by women and minorities and rural telephone companies. To meet this Congressional mandate, the Auction Notice proposed a variety of financial incentives for the designated entities. Specifically, we proposed to offer the designated entities the equivalent of government financing for payment of their bids for services subject to competitive bidding i.e., installment payments with interest. We also asked for comment on the use of tax certificates. In the case of broadband PCS, the Commission also proposed to set-aside two blocks of spectrum in each market, one of 20 MHz and one of 10 MHz, for bidding by the designated entities. In this manner, the designated entities would only compete with one another for broadband PCS rather than against larger entities with easier access to capital. As we consider the comments filed in the competitive bidding proceeding, including comments filed by your constituents, I can assure you that we will keep in mind our mandate to ensure economic opportunity for the designated entities as required by the Budget Act.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Pepper
Chief
Office of Plans and Policy

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

2 copies



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

06 JAN 1994

Honorable Michael D. Crapo
United States House of Representatives
437 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crapo:

This in reply to your letter of December 13, 1993, concerning the impact of the competitive bidding provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (Budget Act) on rural telephone companies. Your letter was referred to me because the Office of Plans and Policy is responsible for implementing the competitive bidding provisions of the Budget Act for the Commission.

On October 12, 1993, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making, (Auction Notice), to implement the provisions of the Budget Act concerning competitive bidding. According to the Budget Act, the Commission must ensure the economic opportunity of small businesses, businesses owned by women and minorities and rural telephone companies. To meet this Congressional mandate, the Auction Notice proposed a variety of financial incentives for the designated entities. Specifically, we proposed to offer the designated entities the equivalent of government financing for payment of their bids for services subject to competitive bidding i.e., installment payments with interest. We also asked for comment on the use of tax certificates. In the case of broadband PCS, the Commission also proposed to set-aside two blocks of spectrum in each market, one of 20 MHz and one of 10 MHz, for bidding by the designated entities. In this manner, the designated entities would only compete with one another for broadband PCS rather than against larger entities with easier access to capital. As we consider the comments filed in the competitive bidding proceeding, including comments filed by your constituents, I can assure you that we will keep in mind our mandate to ensure economic opportunity for the designated entities as required by the Budget Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. M. Pepper", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert M. Pepper
Chief
Office of Plans and Policy

MICHAEL D. CRAPO
2D DISTRICT, IDAHO
NEW MEMBER LEADER

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON
AGRICULTURE
CO-CHAIRMAN

REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON
PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS
CO-CHAIRMAN

CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1202

December 13, 1993

Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
The Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554-0001

RE: PP Docket No. 93-253

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write to you urging adoption of the recommendations made in the November 10, 1993 comments filed by Rocky Mountain Telecommunications Association and Western Rural Telephone Association (The "Western Alliance"). These comments point out the unique problems faced by western rural telephone companies, and the solutions needed to ensure Personal Communications Services ("PCS") to rural areas as mandated by Congress.

Thank you for consideration of these proposals as you prescribe regulations implementing auctions by March 8. I hope you will keep these views in mind. I look forward to working with you to ensure that the needs of rural areas are addressed in administering access to PCS.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Crapo
Member of Congress

MDC/cd

WASHINGTON, DC
437 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5531

DISTRICT OFFICES:

304 NORTH 8TH STREET
ROOM 444
BOISE, ID 83702
(208) 334-1953

2539 CHANNING WAY
SUITE 330
IDAHO FALLS, ID 83404
(208) 523-6701

FEDERAL BUILDING
250 SOUTH 4TH, ROOM 220
POCATELLO, ID 83201
(208) 236-6734

488 BLUE LAKES BLVD., #105
TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
(208) 734-7219

Handwritten notes:
OPP
Auction
PV
5044

MICHAEL D. CRAPO
2D DISTRICT, IDAHO
NEW MEMBER LEADER

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON
AGRICULTURE
CO-CHAIRMAN

REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON
PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS
CO-CHAIRMAN

CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1202

December 13, 1993

Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
The Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554-0001

RE: PP Docket No. 93-253

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write to you urging adoption of the recommendations made in the November 10, 1993 comments filed by Rocky Mountain Telecommunications Association and Western Rural Telephone Association (The "Western Alliance"). These comments point out the unique problems faced by western rural telephone companies, and the solutions needed to ensure Personal Communications Services ("PCS") to rural areas as mandated by Congress.

Thank you for consideration of these proposals as you prescribe regulations implementing auctions by March 8. I hope you will keep these views in mind. I look forward to working with you to ensure that the needs of rural areas are addressed in administering access to PCS.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Crapo
Member of Congress

MDC/cd

WASHINGTON DC
437 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON DC 20515
(202) 225-5531

DISTRICT OFFICES:

304 NORTH 8TH STREET
ROOM 444
BOISE, ID 83702
(208) 334-1953

2539 CHANNING WAY
SUITE 330
IDAHO FALLS, ID 83404
(208) 523-6701

FEDERAL BUILDING
250 SOUTH 4TH, ROOM 220
POCATELLO, ID 83201
(208) 236-6734

488 BLUE LAKES BLVD., #105
TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
(208) 734-7219

OPP
Auction
PV
3044



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

06 JAN 1994

Honorable Michael D. Crapo
United States House of Representatives
437 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crapo:

This in reply to your letter of December 13, 1993, concerning the impact of the competitive bidding provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (Budget Act) on rural telephone companies. Your letter was referred to me because the Office of Plans and Policy is responsible for implementing the competitive bidding provisions of the Budget Act for the Commission.

On October 12, 1993, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making, (Auction Notice), to implement the provisions of the Budget Act concerning competitive bidding. According to the Budget Act, the Commission must ensure the economic opportunity of small businesses, businesses owned by women and minorities and rural telephone companies. To meet this Congressional mandate, the Auction Notice proposed a variety of financial incentives for the designated entities. Specifically, we proposed to offer the designated entities the equivalent of government financing for payment of their bids for services subject to competitive bidding i.e., installment payments with interest. We also asked for comment on the use of tax certificates. In the case of broadband PCS, the Commission also proposed to set-aside two blocks of spectrum in each market, one of 20 MHz and one of 10 MHz, for bidding by the designated entities. In this manner, the designated entities would only compete with one another for broadband PCS rather than against larger entities with easier access to capital. As we consider the comments filed in the competitive bidding proceeding, including comments filed by your constituents, I can assure you that we will keep in mind our mandate to ensure economic opportunity for the designated entities as required by the Budget Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. M. Pepper", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert M. Pepper
Chief
Office of Plans and Policy

MICHAEL D. CRAPO
2d DISTRICT, IDAHO
NEW MEMBER LEADER

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON
AGRICULTURE
CO-CHAIRMAN

REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON
PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS
CO-CHAIRMAN

CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1202

December 13, 1993

Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
The Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554-0001

RE: PP Docket No. 93-253

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write to you urging adoption of the recommendations made in the November 10, 1993 comments filed by Rocky Mountain Telecommunications Association and Western Rural Telephone Association (The "Western Alliance"). These comments point out the unique problems faced by western rural telephone companies, and the solutions needed to ensure Personal Communications Services ("PCS") to rural areas as mandated by Congress.

Thank you for consideration of these proposals as you prescribe regulations implementing auctions by March 8. I hope you will keep these views in mind. I look forward to working with you to ensure that the needs of rural areas are addressed in administering access to PCS.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Crapo
Member of Congress

MDC/cd

WASHINGTON DC
437 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON DC 20515
(202) 225-5531

DISTRICT OFFICES:

304 NORTH 8TH STREET
ROOM 444
BOISE ID 83702
(208) 334-1953

2539 CHANNING WAY
SUITE 330
IDAHO FALLS ID 83404
(208) 523-6701

FEDERAL BUILDING
250 SOUTH 4TH ROOM 220
POCATELLO ID 83201
(208) 236-6734

488 BLUE LAKES BLVD. #105
TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
(208) 734-7219

Handwritten notes:
OPP
Auction
PV
3144



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

06 JAN 1994

Honorable Michael D. Crapo
United States House of Representatives
437 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crapo:

This is in reply to your letter of December 13, 1993, concerning the impact of the competitive bidding provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (Budget Act) on rural telephone companies. Your letter was referred to me because the Office of Plans and Policy is responsible for implementing the competitive bidding provisions of the Budget Act for the Commission.

On October 12, 1993, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making, (Auction Notice), to implement the provisions of the Budget Act concerning competitive bidding. According to the Budget Act, the Commission must ensure the economic opportunity of small businesses, businesses owned by women and minorities and rural telephone companies. To meet this Congressional mandate, the Auction Notice proposed a variety of financial incentives for the designated entities. Specifically, we proposed to offer the designated entities the equivalent of government financing for payment of their bids for services subject to competitive bidding i.e., installment payments with interest. We also asked for comment on the use of tax certificates. In the case of broadband PCS, the Commission also proposed to set-aside two blocks of spectrum in each market, one of 20 MHz and one of 10 MHz, for bidding by the designated entities. In this manner, the designated entities would only compete with one another for broadband PCS rather than against larger entities with easier access to capital. As we consider the comments filed in the competitive bidding proceeding, including comments filed by your constituents, I can assure you that we will keep in mind our mandate to ensure economic opportunity for the designated entities as required by the Budget Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. M. Pepper", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert M. Pepper
Chief
Office of Plans and Policy

MICHAEL D. CRAPO
2d DISTRICT, IDAHO
NEW MEMBER LEADER

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON
AGRICULTURE
CO-CHAIRMAN

REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON
PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS
CO-CHAIRMAN

CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1202

December 13, 1993

Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
The Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554-0001

RE: PP Docket No. 93-253

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write to you urging adoption of the recommendations made in the November 10, 1993 comments filed by Rocky Mountain Telecommunications Association and Western Rural Telephone Association (The "Western Alliance"). These comments point out the unique problems faced by western rural telephone companies, and the solutions needed to ensure Personal Communications Services ("PCS") to rural areas as mandated by Congress.

Thank you for consideration of these proposals as you prescribe regulations implementing auctions by March 8. I hope you will keep these views in mind. I look forward to working with you to ensure that the needs of rural areas are addressed in administering access to PCS.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Crapo
Member of Congress

MDC/cd

WASHINGTON, DC
437 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5531

DISTRICT OFFICES:

304 NORTH 8TH STREET
ROOM 444
BOISE, ID 83702
(208) 334-1953

2539 CHANNING WAY
SUITE 330
IDAHO FALLS, ID 83404
(208) 523-6701

FEDERAL BUILDING
250 SOUTH 4TH, ROOM 220
POCATELLO, ID 83201
(208) 236-6734

488 BLUE LAKES BLVD. #105
TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
(208) 734-7219

OPP
Auction
PV
3044